

**Statement of Rep. Henry A. Waxman
Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and Commerce
Markup of H.R. 3675, the Federal Communications Process
Reform Act of 2013 and H.R. 3674, the Federal Spectrum
Incentive Act of 2013
Full Committee
December 11, 2013**

Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

I want to thank Chairmen Upton and Walden for working with Democrats on the Committee to reach a bipartisan compromise on the FCC Process Reform Act. I also want to commend Ranking Member Eshoo for her leadership. Last Congress, we were unable to reach consensus and the legislation foundered. I am hopeful that our ability to find common ground will change the result this year.

In fact, our process on the FCC process bill should be a model for how this Committee can operate. When we have serious, bipartisan engagement, we can make progress.

I support the FCC process bill because it will improve the operation of the FCC. The bill incorporates important reforms to the Sunshine Act. It creates a publically searchable database of consumer complaints to improve accountability. And it also provides a permanent exemption from the Antideficiency Act for the Universal Service Fund that would allow this program to operate with certainty and continuity.

Other provisions direct the FCC to start proceedings to evaluate how the agency can improve transparency and efficiency.

We could not reach agreement on two contentious provisions: the FCC's merger authority and cost-benefit analysis requirements. These provisions were dropped from this bill. We could also not reach agreement on proposals that we suggested to strengthen the agency's forfeiture authority. This too was dropped in the interest of consensus.

I want to commend FCC Chairman Wheeler for his commitment to these issues. As the FCC develops its own process reform proposals, we should incorporate good ideas into the FCC Process Reform Act. I look forward to working with Chairman Wheeler and the Senate leadership as the legislation moves through the process.

I also want to express my support for the Federal Spectrum Incentive Act under consideration today. I am an original co-sponsor of the bill, and I want to thank Congresswoman Matsui and Congressman Guthrie for their leadership on this issue.

The bill provides new incentives for federal agencies to use their spectrum more efficiently while addressing our nation's spectrum shortage. Specifically, it gives agencies the potential to obtain additional revenue to help offset the cuts imposed by sequestration. I urge my colleagues to support this innovative, bipartisan legislation.